



March 6, 2012

Re: Clean Water Action's opposition to SBs 528-533

Dear Honorable Members of the Michigan House Natural Resources,
Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Committee,

On behalf of our over 250,000 Michigan members, Clean Water Action urges you to oppose Senate Bills 528-533.

Our state has a serious problem with leaking underground storage tanks and currently has over 9,000 leaking tanks at 7,000 known contamination sites in Michigan. Clean Water Action's mission is to protect drinking water and our other priceless water resources from pollution like leaking petroleum from underground storage tanks.

There is a need to see faster action to clean-up these leaking tanks in our state. However, Senate Bills 528-533 put in place processes that leave dangerously-little oversight to the state, such as allowing responsible parties to set clean-up standards and make determinations to end remediation without prior approval from state agencies. Public participation in the clean-up process would also be severely limited through these bills, as there is no notice and comment requirement for remediation plans. The bills also would limit the state's ability to stop actions that are causing "an imminent risk to public health." This is a very harmful precedent that must not be allowed.

In addition to far too weak processes for state and public oversight of clean-up plans, this legislation would also make the general population of Michigan bear more of the cost of the clean-up. Instead, the state should be doing more to hold responsible parties accountable for their pollution.

Because of these and other reasons, Clean Water Action strongly urges you to oppose SBs 528-533.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Harley".

Susan E. Harley, J.D.
Michigan Policy Director

East Lansing
1200 Michigan Ave., Ste. C
East Lansing, MI 48823
Tel: 517-203-0754
Fax: 517-203-0760

Ann Arbor
320 Miller Ave., Ste. 180
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Tel: 734-222-6347
Fax: 734-222-6473

Clinton Township
23885 Denton, Ste. B
Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Tel: 586-783-8900
Fax: 586-783-4033

www.cleanwateraction.org/mi